

SKATING

Season Opened in Full Blast.

Park Ponds and All Other Ponds Crowded with Skaters—A Splendid Day

the Nature does not often put herself out of the
at any time of the year to oblige Gothamites
more than any other particular portion of this
trial sphere of ours; but she certainly must
exerted herself a little yesterday to please the
city of New Yorkers, who have an idea that a
tunas without skating is no Christmas at all.
But, skaters could not have obtained a finer day

was yesterday in point of weather, or a more
very surface for every pond for miles around had
for a month before gone down on their marrow
every day for two hours successively to
of the "authorities that be" over our freezing
tries to grant the icy boon each so long wished
Bane Nature, therefore, deserves well of the
living community, no matter how she may see fit
before the present week has run its length. It
is often that the ponds in this vicinity are in a

THE SKATING SEASON
never opened before the 20th day of December, but one exception, previous to this year, since park ponds were the property of the public; but now or other skaters always get it into their heads that somebody who is an official body is to blame whenever they are not allowed to skate on the ponds just as soon as the weather is cold. The city now puts a transparent platform over the ponds.

ns. The Park Commissioners, however, have wondrous ways their works to perform, and though people do find fault with them whenever they do not do exactly as the aforesaid people want to do, their ways, as a general thing, always out to be the right ways in the long run. The ponds were covered with an excellent layer of ice four or five days ago, and a large number of the boys, who are accustomed to risk a ducking in winter, that the general public may not get

the clothes wet when the "season" sets in, were to walk over it from shore to shore in a crowd every Thursday last. During one of the essays the layer cracked badly, and this fact was sufficient of itself to make many of the boys groan or refrain from heaving the ball to the top of the Arsenal pole. It was in vain that adventurous urinals, who don't believe in the Park missionaries as much as good boys should, peeked into the groves near the pond and then dived out upon the glassy surface with skates tied strapped, for they were always nabbed by the terrible gray coats, commanded by Captain RUSSELL BIRCH.

"THE BALL UP"
The Arsenal yesterday put an end to juvenile as well as senile anxiety on the skating subject, and before many a breakfast had been prepared the leading to the Park were crowded to repetition the devotees of the "trons." Arrived, up to have a little skate at five o'clock in the afternoon there an incessant flow through the avenues of men, men and children, all bound to the winter Mecca of halm—the Park ponds. At noon the lake was crowded that locomotion was almost an impossibility, and had the ice on the large lake especially been over a foot thick, as it was, the pressure

also. The ice was not only thick enough to support the thirty thousand or more persons who were day after day up there in their iron-leaf suits with their patents, but it was so slippery that the unlucky souls who attempted to walk across the lakes with the footboards they were so proudly displaying in stepping out on one side of a parlor to another, and who were not scientific enough to know

HOW TO SKATE,

were to ultimately grief many times before they were able to reach *terra firma*. It is safe to say that

never was a finer hour for life in the Park
than it was then, and this fact may
doubtless account for the blood-stained
kerchiefs that were wound about so many fore-
heads before evening had well set in, as well as
for the eagerness with which the people
came to the ponds, and were in demand all day long by
the teeming portion of the many thousands present.
The great was the eagerness displayed by old and
young alike to get to the ponds as early as possible
to see the mystic lake when darkened by the
moonlight, and when the water had been in
station to every one, that hundreds reached the
houses only to discover that they had left
skates at home. Others who do not care to
submit to sham Nature's fantasies and run the chance

proit on the "loss" side of their ledger by in-
ing in a pair of skates every year, arrived at the
nds as graciously as the jolliest skater owned on the
nds made the most of the society by turning
in just for the occasion. To say that the Park
ministers did not make a

GOODYLE FINE OF GREENBACKS
the benefit of the Park by this, although the
quitos Braun, sweltered as ordinary men do in
dog days, in his vain efforts to make even non-
acid to the general fund, would be a hazard-
assertion. The skaters did not come to the
at force, having evidently been compelled to stay
home to reap of the tiresome effects of a Sunday

stunna, but in their stead there was a goodly
company of the beginners, who, thanks to their
savings, their fallings and their graspings for a
d when they felt their underpinning giving way,
managed to scurry to the edge of the ice for them-
selves in whatever part of the lake they saw fit to
amble and tumble. The large lake afforded

THE BEST SPORT,
the ice was much more glassy than upon the
rivers. As a consequence the crowding was im-
mense. The fancy skaters who love to have elbow
room enough to display themselves before the
gawking multitudes who follow them
in going to places where the ice is

seeing them fall and break their necks they dash about at all sorts of angles, were at a loss to know how to avoid furnishing the coroner with a few accidental cases selected from the beginners, who were sure to stumble in the way just as Fanny Skater was performing a music oton's movement in mid-air with his toes. On the upper or middle lake, which forms the largest one below the bridge, the ice was excellent, but the northern part of it was reserved exclusively for a number

"GANNY SCOTS."

who enjoyed themselves hugely in a "caring" game,

any of the on-earlagers were on hand, prominent among them was Willie Houston, who tried to make more points than any other on-earl but was beaten by a good many olds. There was a large number of spectators of the game, one of whom was adventuresome Englishman who got excited, and making an effort to skate across the curling line, was profoundly impressed with the skiffulness of the play when he found himself sprawling on the ice on his back, because of an unruly "claster" being by one of the on-earls of considerable size. One of the best jokes of the day on this lake was a sign of "DANGER," which was placed on a line stretched from shore to shore in such a way

he who ran or rather skated, in his direction was certain to read it, if he could read at all. But the danger really was the skaters were unable to get out from the policeman who stood guard at the beam and in the confusion withdrew away with a hectic gesture of the hand that put to flight everything that came within hailing distance. There was a little pool of open water near the boat steps in which the gray coat occasionally eyed with a sort of contemptuous regard, as though in his heart and he were wishing it to be

S. O. P.

"Danger, eh?" exclaimed a burly skater who was really agile but his knees were from touching the

try time he attempted to put one foot before the other. He looked very much like a raw countryman when he attempted to enjoy the holidays.

"Great danger," growled the gray coat.

"Water deep?"

"About twenty-eight feet."

"You don't say so?"

"Fact, 'pon my soul; a man fell in there to-day."

"Bless my soul! How'd they get 'im out?"

"They didn't get him out. He's there yet. We er take anybody out who gets in where it's 'rked 'dang'er. We let 'em drown and scoops 'em up in the summer."

the skating rink became more snaky than ever in the snow, and he put for the first time at once, while a crowd of small boys turned about and went away from the kanger spot. It is needless to state any of the "Dancer" sign meant was to warn stray away from the "curling."

The skating went on merrily to very late in the evening on all the lakes, and should the weather continue as cold as it was yesterday it may be, after the first of the skating season of 1870 will be a right one. It should be mentioned that there were no crowds at the Fifth Avenue pond and at the old Avenue Rink during the day.

COURT CALENDARS—THIS DAY.

SUPREME AND TERMINOR AND SUPREME COURT.—CIVIL.—Part I.—Before Judge Cardozo. Opens at eleven o'clock A. M. No Circuit calendar.
Part II.—Criminal cases.—At ten o'clock A. M.: People vs. John Thomas, grand jury; Same vs. Patrick Mahoney, grand jury; Same vs. Thomas Murriel et al., robbery; Same vs. Joseph Walsh, grand jury; Same vs. John Wilson, grand larceny.
SUPREME COURT.—CHAMBERS.—Held by Judge Ingraham.—Opens at ten o'clock A. M.—Calendar set at twelve M.—Nos. 47, 77, 78, 80, 83, 85, 90, 91, 111, 112, 148, 151, 152, 165, 166, 168,

1259, 130, 401, 241, 465, 161, 391, 316, 320, 98,
 249, 359, 309, 268, 377, 311, 409, 483, 245, 163,
 478, 43, 80, 136, 35, 204, 158, 131, 277,
 ARIZ. COURT. — 1. Before Judge Dyer. —
 1744, 52099, 4404, 5172, 4597, 5318, 4, 4098, 4728,
 4732, 4733, 4735, 4737, 4738, 4740, 4741.
 COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS. — Before Recorder
 Keith. — The People vs. Henry Vasquez, murderer;
 vs. Thomas McCarthy, manslaughter; ~~Before~~
 George Byrne, same vs. William Keller,
 justice; same vs. Philip Fuscicelli, grand larceny;
 same vs. Louis Fruchet and others, grand larceny.